



## **UOCAVA**

#### Absentee Voting Law

# The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) allows eligible citizens to:

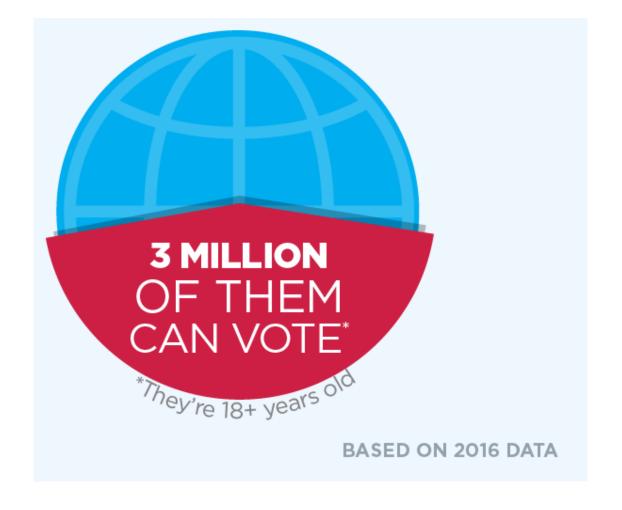
- Register to vote and request an absentee ballot using one instrument (the FPCA);
- Vote by absentee ballot.

#### Who is covered by *UOCAVA*?

- Absent Uniformed Service members;
- Absent members of the Merchant Marine;
- Eligible family members of the two above groups;
- Other U.S. citizens residing outside of the United States.

# Overseas Citizen Population Analysis





# **Absentee Voting Process**









Voter submits FPCA to election office to register and request ballot.

Election office processes FPCA. Sends ballot to voter.

Voter receives ballot, votes it, and returns it to election office. Voter contacts election office about the status of the ballot.

I Voted From

Voter does NOT receive ballot. Fills out the FWAB as a "back up" ballot and returns it to election office.

Voter contacts
election office
about the status of
the ballot.





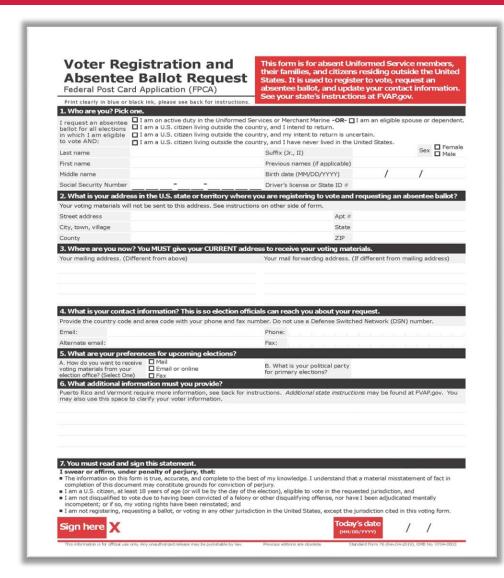
# **Federal Post Card Application**

Registers and Requests a Ballot

The FPCA allows eligible voters to register to vote, request a ballot, and update contact information.

Voters must fill out and sign the FPCA before returning it to their election office.

- For overseas citizens, the voting residence is usually the address at which the voter last resided prior to leaving the U.S.; for military, it is usually the address on their LES
- The voter does not need to have any current ties with their residence address. This remains true even if the voter:
  - Holds no property in the state
  - Has no intention to return to the state
  - Resided at an address that is no longer valid
- 39 states allow citizens who have never resided in the U.S. to use a parent's voting residence as their own.
- Voters are allowed to have only one voting residence for Federal elections.



## Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

"Back Up" Ballot

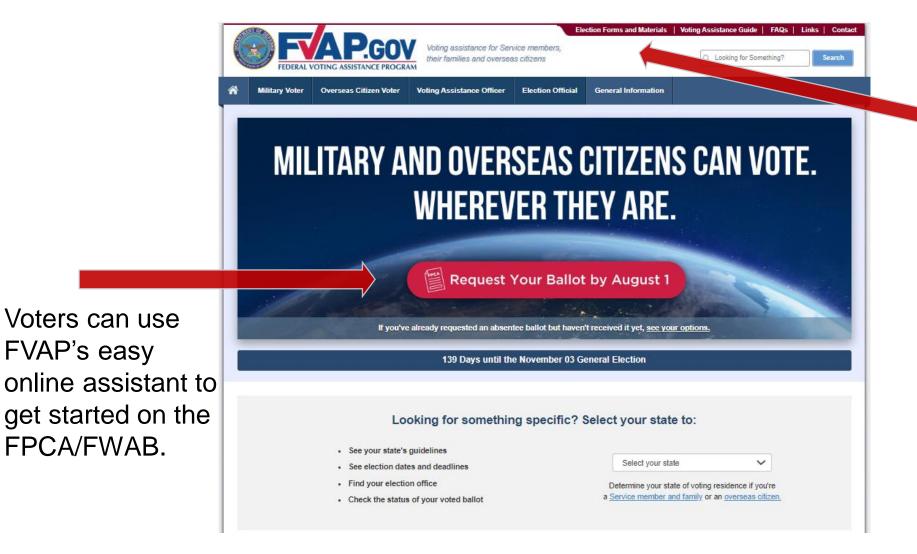
### The FWAB is also known as the "back-up" ballot

- In the event that a voter does not receive the official ballot on time to return it, the voter can submit the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).
- Each FWAB is designed with a "secrecy envelope" to ensure the ballot remains private and anonymous.
- Voters can use FVAP's online assistant to walk them through the FWAB at www.FVAP.gov/FWAB.
  - Print the ballot package and sign it. Then, place the ballot portion of the FWAB in an envelope titled "Secret" and place it along with the voter information page inside a larger envelope for mailing.
  - Voters can find postage-paid envelope templates at FVAP.gov/materials.



## WWW.FVAP.GOV

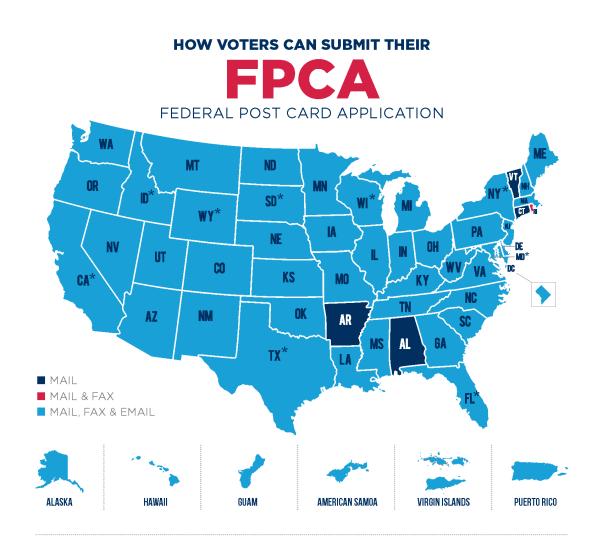
#### Online Assistant – FPCA/FWAB

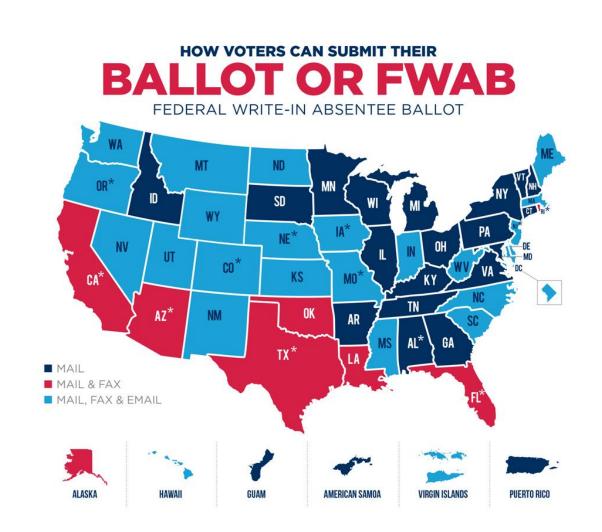


Voters can find postage-paid envelopes, calendars, and fact sheets.

# Return Voting Materials From Abroad

FVAP.gov/COVID-19





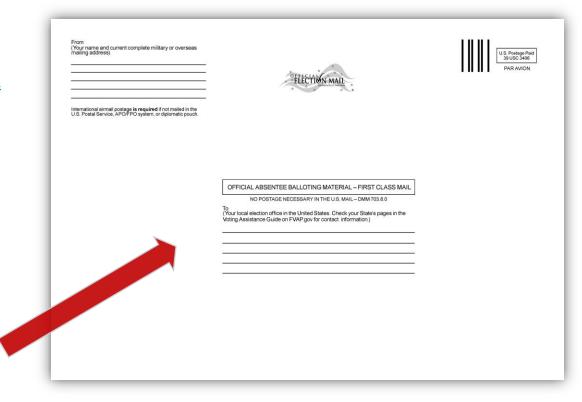
# Mailed Ballot Return via Diplomatic Pouch

Some states accept voting materials by MAIL only. U.S. citizens can mail their ballot to their election official via international mail, private courier, or the diplomatic pouch at a nearby U.S. embassy or consulate. The recommended mailing deadline for the 2020 General Election is October 13, 2020.

Postage-paid envelope templates can be found at: <a href="https://www.fvap.gov/eo/overview/ma">www.fvap.gov/eo/overview/ma</a> <a href="terials/forms">terials/forms</a>

Voters must address their voting materials to their election officials.
They can find that contact information here:
<a href="https://www.fvap.gov/search-">www.fvap.gov/search-</a>

offices





# **Contact FVAP**

FVAP.gov vote@fvap.gov 1-800-438-VOTE(8683) DSN: 425-1584

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